



---

## ***PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE 2026-2027***

---

- Welcome to the Grizzly Band Family! (p2)
- North Point Grizzly History, Band Director & Staff Contact Info (2)
- Important Dates to Remember & Student Tips for Summer Band (3-4)
- Football Game and Competition Schedules (4)
- Sample Game and Competition Itineraries (5)
- North Point Band Boosters (6)
- Ways You Can Support the Band & Band Booster Committees (7-9)
- Volunteer Background Check & Other Required Forms (10)
- Band Parent Handbook (11-13)
- Band Terms & Definitions (14-16)
- FAQs (17-19)

## Welcome to the Grizzly Band Family!

We are very excited you are here! We hope this document will serve as a supplement to the handbook Mr. O'Donnell provided in May. We realize that there is a lot to learn and a lot in this document. We wanted to create a resource that you could reference back to throughout you and your students' involvement within the program. Welcome!

### North Point High School Grizzly Band – History

- [npband.boosterhub.com](http://npband.boosterhub.com) 🎵 [Facebook](#) 🎵 X @NPHSGrizzlyBand 🎵

The North Point High School band program, established in fall 2021, started with 27 members and now boasts around 80 students from grades 9 to 12. The program has two seasons: marching and concert. Marching season starts in May for Color Guard & Percussion, and July for the full band. Marching season includes summer rehearsals, camps, football games, and fall competitions. Concert season begins in the fall with All-State auditions and includes a winter concert in December and spring events like Solo & Small Ensemble and a spring concert.

Our bands have earned many awards, displayed in front of the Theater. We focus on Pride, Passion, and Purpose, striving for Excellence. Our goal is to develop life skills through music, including leadership, discipline, citizenship, and responsibility. Thank you for supporting your students' growth!

### Staff:

Band Directors	
Patrick O'Donnell	<b>Director of Bands</b> patrickodonnell@wsdr4.org
David Aubuchon	<b>Associate Director of Bands</b> davidaubuchon@wsdr4.org
Additional Staff	
Zachary O'Connor	<b>Color Guard Director</b> zacharyoconnor@wsdr4.org
Andrew Harmon-Fields	<b>Color Guard Tech</b>
Mark Ishman	<b>Percussion Director</b> the314percussionist@gmail.com
Herrie Pullom	<b>Percussion Tech</b> funkydrumbeatz@gmail.com

## Important Dates to Remember

(**dates and times may change - always check BoosterHub [Calendar](#), You can also subscribe to the calendar as well.**)

### Summer Rehearsals:

- Color Guard: Tuesday & Thursdays 6-9pm (May 27<sup>th</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup>)
- Percussion: Wednesdays 5-8pm (June 4<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- Battery Camp: Wednesday & Thursday 12-8 (July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>)
- Full Band: Mondays & Thursdays 6-8pm (July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>th</sup>)
- Band Camp: July 27<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup> (1:00-8:00pm), August 3<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> (7:00am – 2:00pm)

### Student Tips for Summer Band Camp

Here are some things that you need to consider for your students' comfort and for their safety.

#### Sun Protection:

- Sunscreen is highly recommended.
- Lip balm with SPF protection is also highly recommended.

#### Apparel:

- Students should wear shorts. Non-cotton shorts are the most comfortable in the heat. Athletic shorts work extremely well for marching band.
- Students should wear short-sleeved t-shirts that are lighter in color and light-weight.
- Tennis shoes with socks are required for the marching band activity, as they will be spending a lot of time on their feet! Cross trainer/running-type shoes with good arch and heel support are best.
- Sunglasses and a hat are strongly encouraged.
- A towel.

#### Nutrition:

***Students are required to bring water to every marching band rehearsal.*** It is highly advised to drink plenty of water each night before camp as well as in the morning, before arriving to camp. Water is VERY important to your students' health and success of camp.

- The gallon or half gallon water jug is necessary. A 20 oz. bottle of water is not sufficient. *Students should fill up their jugs with water and ice at home prior to coming to rehearsal.* Remind your student to bring their water jugs home every day, especially to get washed.
- Liquids other than water are prohibited.
- Students should keep in mind, when making food choices, that they will be spending up to 3-4 hours outside during rehearsals.
- Milk and dairy products don't tend to sit well in a moving stomach in the heat.
- Breakfasts that are high in protein, such as peanut butter toast or even toast with small amounts of egg, are great.

- Chips and a Coke are not an ideal lunch to get ready for afternoon rehearsals. Students should eat a good, solid lunch for sustained energy during afternoon rehearsals.

**Safety and the health of our students is the top priority to the band staff:**

- Your student will receive frequent water breaks throughout rehearsal.
- All North Point coaches and staff are trained in student health and safety under MSHSAA heat safety regulations for extreme heat situations.
- It's very important for your students to hydrate themselves with water whenever possible.
- If your student does not feel well, they need to tell a director immediately.

**Fall Marching Rehearsals:**

*(always check [BoosterHub](#) [Calendar](#))*

- Full Band: Early Morning start @6:30am Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri (no Wed). Start Aug 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Full Band: Evening, Aug-Sept Wed 6-8:30pm. Start Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. October Tue 6-830pm

*Typical week once school starts outlined below*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Early Music Rehearsal</b> 6:30a-7:20 (Full Ensemble) 7:20a-8:00 (Sectionals)	<b>Extended Early Rehearsal</b> 6:30a-8:45	<b>No Early Rehearsal Evening Rehearsal</b> 6:00p-9:00 Note: changes in October to Tuesday	<b>Early Rehearsal</b> 6:30a-8:00	<b>Early Rehearsal</b> 6:30a-8:00 <b>*Football Game</b> , if one is scheduled* Call Time 5p	<b>Competitions</b> Schedule provided earlier in the week

**2025 Marching Band Performance Schedule:**

*(always check [BoosterHub](#) [Calendar](#))*

Date	What	Where	Notes
8/22/26	Midwest Marching Percussion Classic	Timberland HS	Call time TBD
9/11/26	1st Football Game	NPHS vs. Poplar Bluff	Call time @ 5
9/18/26	2nd Football Game	NPHS vs. FZE	Call time @ 5
9/26/26	Competition #1	Lafayette HS	Call time TBD
10/2/26	3rd Football Game	NPHS vs. FZN	Call time @ 5
10/3/26	Competition #2	GSL @ Belleville West	Call time TBD
10/9/26	4th Football Game	NPHS vs. Washington (HOCO)	Call time @ 5

10/10/26	Homecoming Parade	Wentzville	Call time TBD
10/17/25	Competition #4	Quincy HS	Call time TBD
10/20/26	Wentzville Showcase	Liberty HS	Call time 430pm
10/23/26	5th Football Game	NPHS vs. Caruthersville	Call time @ 5 (Senior Night)
10/24/26	Competition #5	Marquette HS	Call time TBD
<b>NOVEMBER 6, 2026</b>	<b>PLAYOFF FOOTBALL GAME TBD</b>		

## Sample Football Game and Competition Schedules:

**VERY IMPORTANT** – items to bring:

- Instrument and mouthpiece
- Water jug - Fill it with ice and water before coming to school
- Show Shirt or other designated shirt
- Form-fitting shorts
- Long black socks & Dinkles
- Gloves

**SAMPLE FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE** (times are very close estimates. Exact times or changes to times will be communicated from the directors. Please be flexible.)

- 5:00 – Call time
- 7:00 – game begins
- 10:00 – game ends
- 10:30 – students released

**SAMPLE COMPETITION SCHEDULE** (times are very close estimates. Exact times or changes to times will be communicated from the directors. Please be flexible.)

- 7:30a – Call time
- 8:30 – Load buses, depart NPHS
- 9:30 – Arrive, unload trailer, get wristbands, get into uniform bibs, instructions
- 10:30 – Stretch + physical warm up
- 10:45 – Music warm up
- 11:00 – Troop to performance area
- 11:15 – Perform
- 11:30 – Change, Lunch
- 12:30p – Watch Other Bands
- 3:45 – Prelims Awards – Drum Major Retreat

**If we advance to Finals:**

- TBD - Finals Warm-Up & Performance (between 6:15 and 8:30)
- 9:00 - Finals Awards - Full Band Retreat
- 10:00 - Depart
- 11:00 - Arrive at NPHS - unload trailers, put uniforms away. WE WILL DISMISS TOGETHER AS A GROUP IN THE BAND ROOM. NO ONE LEAVES EARLY AND EVERYONE HELPS!

**If we do not advance to Finals:**

- 5:00 - Load buses, depart
- 6:15 - Arrive at NPHS - unload trailers, put uniforms away. WE WILL DISMISS TOGETHER AS A GROUP IN THE BAND ROOM. NO ONE LEAVES EARLY AND EVERYONE HELPS!

## **North Point Band Boosters, Inc**

The North Point Band Boosters, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 87-1568091), is dedicated to providing students with an exceptional high school band experience. This parent-run organization exists solely to support the Grizzly Band Program. This organization operates through the efforts of volunteer parents to offer your student a fulfilling and rewarding musical experience. As a parent/guardian of a band member, you automatically become a member of the North Point Band Boosters. The success of this organization relies on the participation of every parent with a student in the Music Department. Parent involvement in our Booster program is strongly encouraged to experience the enjoyment and satisfaction of supporting the students and the band.

The Boosters play a crucial role in the success of the Grizzly Band and provide an excellent opportunity for you to be involved in your student's high school experience through committees, volunteer work, or simply attending the monthly booster meetings. We truly want everyone involved at whatever level of commitment you can offer. Our program benefits greatly from the dedication of hardworking parents, guardians, and volunteers who join us each year. Your presence at games and competitions is appreciated by your student, even if it may not always seem evident.

Although the Wentzville school district has shown great support for its performing arts programs, fundraisers are necessary to bridge the gap left by what is not covered by the school district. It requires between 20 and 30 parents to ensure everything runs smoothly each week, particularly during the fall season.

***We invite all parents/guardians to participate regardless of your skills or talents. There is a place for you.***

## **2026-2027 North Point Band Boosters Board of Directors**

*Parents of current band members, elected by Band Boosters*

**President** – Jeremy Pritchett – jeremypritchett79@gmail.com  
**Vice-President** – Tosha Grams – npbb.vicepresident@gmail.com  
**VP of Recruiting** – Nicole Schaffner –  
**VP of Logistics** – Matt Summers –  
**VP of Food & Beverage** – Misty Fears –  
**VP of Fundraising** – Angela Keating –  
**Secretary** – Caren Stuhlsatz – secretary.npbb@gmail.com  
**Treasurer** – Nastassja Ingle – treasurer.npbb@gmail.com  
**Treasurer Elect** – Stacey Politte –

## Ways to Support the Band

**Corporate matches** – The North Point Band Boosters, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 87-1568091), so when you make a donation, your company may match it! Ask your company Human Resources for more information on how your Company Match works.

**RaiseRight** – Gift Card Fundraising that turns everyday expenses to earnings. Simply buy gift cards and shop online through North Point Band’s RaiseRight program, and brands automatically give up to 20% back to help cover a portion of your students' booster fees and support the band! Find out more on [BoosterHub](#).

**Volunteer opportunities** – There are various ways to volunteer for the North Point Band Program, such as at football games and competitions. Consider your hobbies and interests to see how you can contribute while enjoying yourself. The band's success heavily relies on volunteer support throughout the year. *Watch for requests via Socials, Emails and via BoosterHub.*

## Committees and Descriptions

Committee chairs attend monthly Booster meetings to give reports on committee activities. Monthly meetings take place in the evenings in the band room or auditorium and are usually 1-2 hours, typically the second Thursday of the month.

Committees	Chair (2026/27)	Definition
Equipment & Transportation Committee  <i>*Some summer commitment is necessary.</i>		<i>Engineering &amp; Construction Team:</i> Building & maintaining props, building shelves for trailers, building other “stuff” as needed. <i>Transportation Crew:</i> Safely transport equipment to and from events. ½ - ¾ ton truck required. <i>Roadies:</i> Transport props & equipment on/off the field for performances.
Hospitality Committee		Help coordinate volunteers to help at the various functions the band participates in. At home games, will delegate the tasks of marking off bleachers, preparing water coolers and cart, with cups, trash bags, etc. For away events, will help coordinate volunteers to help with all functions not covered by other committees. <i>Band Banquet</i> coordination. <i>Senior Event</i> coordination (Fall & Spring).

Food Committee		<i>Tailgates:</i> Plan, coordinate & oversee food, drinks, and snacks for band members and volunteers for away trips. Help with home events such as end of year banquet.
Uniform Committee <i>*Some summer commitment is necessary.</i>		Measuring students, and fitting them for uniforms/show tops. Inventory, maintenance and repair of band uniforms/show tops.
Archive Committee		<i>Historian:</i> Document all activities of the various band programs and maintain a record of awards and achievements. <i>Photographer:</i> Photo record of the band and boosters throughout the year and assist in compiling Senior Books, Senior Tribute video & Year in Review video at the end of the school year. Post to Social Media with Board approval.
Ways & Means/Fundraising  <i>*Some summer commitment is necessary.</i>		<i>Fundraising:</i> Overall planning and coordination of fundraising to support the activities of the band. <i>Spirit Wear:</i> Coordinate with Band Directors artwork, merchandise, “store”, retailer, etc.

**\*SUMMER COMMITTEE NEEDS** - meet at school on certain evenings, during rehearsals – could meet about 2 hours in the evenings. Starting in July.

- **Engineering & Construction (Equip & Transport)** – building and maintaining props, as needed.
- **Uniform Committee** – Measuring & fitting students for uniforms & show tops, issuing uniforms & show tops. Inventory, maintenance and repair of band uniforms/show tops.
- **Spirit Wear (Fundraising)** – work with the merchandise company to order show shirts or other spirit wear as needed, maintain the supply spirit wear as needed. (Most of the work is in the summer/early fall - 1 hour per week; most time spent coordinating with retailer and when the shirts come in for organization and distribution)

**FALL COMMITTEE NEEDS** – August – October – need 20-30 volunteers at football games and competitions. *Watch for requests via Socials, Emails and via BoosterHub.*

- **Transportation Crew (Equip & Transport)** – driving a truck with a trailer that contains instruments and props. We are looking for a group of people to trade off with driving. (Hours for this vary – but we will need availability for most Saturdays. We will know more on timing for each day as marching season approaches).
- **Roadies (Equip & Transport)** – move props and percussion instruments from the school/parking lot to the field for the halftime show and competitions and then back to the trailers. This is where we need the most help – usually 20-30 people. Bonus, you

get to watch the show from the field! \*\*You don't have to attend the game, come for the ~40 minutes before and during halftime.\*\*

- **Tailgate (Food)** – help with meal coordination and prep at competitions for students & volunteers.

#### **SPRING VOLUNTEER NEEDS – January – May:**

- **Band Banquet Committee (Hospitality)** – This usually happens in May. We need help with planning, decorations, section basket items; day-of help, including decorating, and handing out tickets.
- **Spring Trip Chaperone (if applicable)** – Chaperone students going on the spring trip. The number of chaperones needed depends on the number of students going.

#### **MUCH OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR WORK BELOW CAN BE DONE FROM HOME:**

- **Fundraising/Dine to Donate (Fundraising)** – Organize and communicate Dine to Donate nights, grocery store and shopping rewards (e.g. RaiseRight). We already have contacts and restaurants/retailers we regularly work with. Notify appropriate members of any events that need to be added to Social Media. (~1 hour per event throughout the year)
- **Senior Events (Hospitality)** – In Fall, manage the Senior Night event, including working with the board to order the flowers, sashes, and senior pin for the recognition event during the football game. In Spring, research the senior gift that will be presented at the band banquet and work with the board on ordering. (~5 hours for each event)
- **Band Banquet (Hospitality Committee)** – assist with planning of the band banquet in the spring and managing donated items for a silent auction, as needed. Also help create the senior tribute video. (Starts in February, ~1 hour per week until May banquet)

**MORE HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**– requires going to school regularly throughout the year (perfect for someone who has a few hours in the afternoon/evening):

- **Guard Liaison** – Color guard parents work with the color guard instructor on needs for the group and communicate information at/from booster meetings. You will work with the board to order pass through items in the fall for marching band and in the spring for Winter Guard. Winter Guard starts in November and typically includes 6 performances and a possibility of an overnight trip to the state competition in March or April. (1-2 hours per week)
- **Percussion Liaison** – Battery or Front Ensemble parent to work with the percussion instructor on needs for the group and communicate information at/from booster meetings. You will work with the board to order pass through items. (1-2 hours per week)
- **Historian/Photographer (Archives)** – Grab shots of all the action throughout the year. (1-2+ hours per game/competitions). Organize photos in a central location to be shared and used for visual and video projects throughout the year.

*Watch for requests via Socials, Emails and via BoosterHub.*

## Volunteer Background Checks

All volunteers must have a current background check on file with the district. This clearance must be renewed each year on July 1. All volunteers are required to do this and show proof you are cleared. All forms can be found in below links and on [BoosterHub](#).

- [School District Website for Volunteer Information](#)
- Register with the FCSR by clicking [HERE](#)
- Complete Volunteer forms A & B for the school district by clicking [HERE](#).

## Other Online Required Forms:

[2025-2026 Consent to Travel and Food Permission Form](#)

[North Point High School Activity Registration](#)

[2025-2026 Pre-Participation Form](#)

## Band Parent Handbook

The primary focus for band parents is attending their student's performances to provide support and encouragement. Additionally, volunteering and participating in fundraising activities are crucial for the success of the North Point Grizzly Band program. Our goal is to support the program, enabling our dedicated band students to thrive.

### Helpful Hints that Save You Time, Gas, and Grief:

Encourage your student to be prepared. Forgetting something once will teach them to be resourceful.

- Keep extra black socks, band shirts, band aids, safety pins, etc. in a bag in the car or by the door at home just in case. This way you won't spend time hunting for them each time they are needed.
- At the end of each rehearsal, there are usually announcements - listen up. You can hear the announcements, too!
- You and your student will receive weekly emails including schedule, what to bring, and information on upcoming events/competitions. Add your contact information with the school district & BoosterHub to receive the emails.

### "What that Really Means...":

- **"Band practice is at 5 PM"** - if you're early, you're on time, if you're on time, you're late. When you drop your student off at 4:30, there will be students already there, ready to play. At this point, the anxiety level for being late dramatically increases. Always allow extra time because tardiness will not be accepted.
- **Where is your pencil?** - Students should always have a pencil & highlighter with them.

### Uniforms, Shirts, or "What Do I Wear?"

- **Marching Uniforms** – all students are fitted for a uniform and the uniforms STAY in the uniform room in the band room. The Boosters help with sizing and distribution. The fitted top that has the show theme is worn over the bibber. The show shirt is worn under the bibber. All students must provide their own long, black socks
- **Performance top** – fitted shirt that has the show theme is worn over the bibber. The show shirt is worn under the bibber.
- **Street Attire** – band and shirt (orange with band logo), khaki shorts and athletic shoes are worn for pep band/street attire.
- **Show Shirt** – shirt worn under the marching uniform with current years theme/logo.
- **Concert Black** – black dress shirt, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes. Black dress or blousy top and skirt. No jeans, tennis shoes or t-shirts. Dinkles are acceptable if they are clean.

## **Cheering, Screaming and Other Fun Stuff**

An important job of the booster club is to make certain our parents and friends are familiar with some simple rules of etiquette for games, competitions, and concerts.

### **Marching Events and Games**

- Stay off your phone.
- Don't talk during performances.
- Wear this year's show shirt so our kids can see you!
- Remember to applaud and recognize the hard work and skill of all bands. Don't be afraid to stand up when a band deserves it, even when it's not our kids. Please treat others in the same manner you would like your student to be treated when they perform away from home. When traveling to another school, remember that we are guests who want to be invited back.
- The best seats are as close to the 50-yard line and high up in the stands as possible. Naturally these are the first to go. If you want to have the best seats, arrive before the show begins and stake out your spot. Wear your NPHS Grizzly band gear and look for other NPHS fans so everyone can sit together.
- When a band is on the field performing, please wait until the band is leaving the field before entering or exiting the stands. It is very distracting for performers and the audience when people are wandering in and out. Also, remember that other parents may be photographing or videotaping their student. Please be considerate.
- Cheer, clap, yell and wave signs BEFORE and AFTER your favorite band performs. Then sit down and enjoy the show once the music begins. Always stand and applaud your band when their program is done. It means so much to our students to know that we're there to support them and that we're proud of them, win or lose.
- Clapping and cheering for the entire band during the show/after they do something well is great. Please wait for the soloists to finish to cheer for them.
- Please carry your food wrappers and cups with you and deposit them in the waste containers as you leave the facility. It's a small gesture that demonstrates your respect for schools and their facilities. It also sets a good example for our young people.
- The most important rule of all: Come see your student perform. They work really hard and whether they say it or not, they love it when you are there to see them perform. COME OUT AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!!

### **Video of Halftime or Competition Performances**

We LOVE to see parents and friends out at rehearsals and any time the Grizzly Band performs. Please remember that if you record the Grizzly Band (specifically Audio / Video), please DO NOT share those recordings publicly through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok or any other social media platform. This is very important. Still photographs are okay to share on social channels and videos / audio recordings are fine for your own

personal private use, just not on any public platform. The band does not have copyright permission to post or distribute video recordings of any performance material, and any posting could make the band liable for financial penalties because the rights agreement we have purchased doesn't include such publications or broadcasts. Thank you in advance for helping keep our program in compliance with the law.

### **Meals for Competitions**

- All students are provided meals on contest days. Sometimes this is just lunch or just dinner. Sometimes it is lunch and dinner.
- Please note any dietary needs on the registration sheet.

### **Stage Concerts and Contests**

- Barking, whistling, hooting, and foot stamping are part of the fun at football games or marching competitions but concerts and stage competitions are more formal.
- Silence your phones.
- Wait until the end of the piece before leaving your seat or entering the auditorium and getting a seat.
- Do not allow doors to slam during a performance.
- Please do not talk during a performance. Performances are often recorded for evaluation and sometimes submitted to contest organizers. The microphones used are very sensitive and easily pick up voices and other background sounds, like shifting in seats.
- Watch the conductor closely. When a selection is finished, hold your applause until they step down from the platform. Some musical selections have several parts separated by a pause to allow the musicians to arrange their music or change instruments. Hold your applause until all of the parts of a selection are complete and the conductor steps down.
- Applause and/or standing ovations at the end of a performance are appropriate.
- If you want to record the concert, set up tripods at the rear of the auditorium. No one wants to watch the performance through your phone or camera.
- Please refrain from using electronic flash photography while a band is performing. Remember that some auditoriums have restrictions on photography. Please honor their rules and always be considerate.

## North Point Band Terms & Definitions:

- **All-Region and All-State Band** – elite bands made of players from many schools selected by audition. These auditions begin in November.
- **Auxiliary** – for marching band scores – color guard | for front ensemble – triangles, tambourine, etc.
- **Band Banquet** – end of school year event for band members and their families. This typically takes place in May.
- **Booster Fee** – this covers the fees for competitions, marching show designers, sectional staff and other band expenses.
- **Band Room** – center of band activities in a school, your student’s second home.
- **Band Time** – arriving at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time. This allows the event/practice to start on time.
- **Band Boosters** – band parent/guardian who has a student enrolled in band and encouraged to attend all booster meetings to have their vote/voice heard in booster board decisions. No membership fee required.
- **Band Booster Board/Executives** – a group of parents/guardians who support a high school band program. They volunteer additional time to help raise funds, organize events and provide other support to help the band succeed.
- **Band Booster Meeting** – meeting once a month to go over agenda items from the directors, staff and booster executives for upcoming events. It’s a great place to get details outside of meeting minutes, keep informed of all events and ask questions.
- **Band Shirt** – orange t-shirt with circle band logo.
- **Battery** – marching band percussion section that carries drums and marches. Consists of snare drums, bass drums and tenors (see Tenors).
- **Bibs/Bibber** – black overall-type pants. The overall-like garment worn under a uniform jacket or show top in standard marching band uniforms.
- **BOA** – Bands of America. Multiple, large competitions, for hundreds of schools around the country. These competitions are scheduled at various venues around the nation, on different days in the fall.
- **Brass** - Trumpets, mellophones, horns, euphoniums, baritones, trombones, sousaphones and tubas. (All the shiny instruments that don’t have reeds.)
- **Clap Out** – when the students get back from competitions, the families meet at the school, form two lines on either side from the buses to the band room. As students unload from the buses to the band room, families clap as they walk down.
- **Color Guard** – A group of students who add color and style to marching band performances with flags and other props. Also known as Auxiliary, the term originally used for the flag/rifle carriers who stood at the front of a marching show. This evolved into a modern color guard when dance and decorative flags were added.
- **Concert Season** – roughly December through May.
- **Concert Black** – all black attire.
- **Competitions (concert band)** – competitions among concert bands playing contest music before a panel of judges.

- **Contest/Competition/Festival (marching band)** – competitions among marching bands before a panel of judges.
- **Dinkles** – shoes worn with marching band uniforms (and can be worn at band concerts if clean).
- **Drill** – the actual choreography of the show. It involves the development of the patterns in which the band will march while playing the show music. The drill is written with each band member represented by a specific dot. If a band member is not available for a show, it creates a hole where the dot is and affects the visual aspect of the performance. Each dot/member is essential to each performance.
- **Drum Majors** – student conductor(s) who direct the marching band as it performs.
- **Drumline** – the entire percussion section of the marching band that includes Pit/Front Ensemble and Battery.
- **Eligibility** – since certain band activities are MSHSAA sanctioned events, we must adhere to the state and local school board eligibility requirements. More info can be found [here](#).
- **Fall** – marching season.
- **Festivals** – marching band competitions.
- **Field Show** – a marching band competition that takes place on football fields. Marching bands perform up to an 11-minute show for the audience and a panel of judges.
- **Finals Competition** – top bands based on a specific point scale to determine the Champion.
- **Front Ensemble/Pit** – marching band percussion section that does not march (performs on the sidelines), composed of instruments such as marimbas, gong, concert bass drum, etc.
- **General Effect (GE)** – It is meant to measure the intangible, somewhat subjective idea of the impact the band's show has on the audience. This is the leans, head nods, etc. in a show.
- **Loading Crew** – loosely organized group of band members and parents who load/unload the truck and trailers.
- **Marching Season** – roughly July through October.
- **Marimba** – percussion instrument; type of xylophone.
- **Metronome** – device which adulates and visually represents the tempo or steady beat. Can be purchased at music stores or added to electronic devices using an app.
- **Mellophone** – marching French Horn.
- **Payments** – all payments are made to the North Point Band Boosters, Inc. Checks should be made out to the North Point Band Boosters, Inc. and include the parent's phone number and student's name. We also accept payment by credit card via BoosterHub app. Credit card processing fees are the responsibility of the payer. If students are submitting money in person, please make sure they drop the cash, check or money order in an envelope with your student's name and what it is for in the lock box, outside the directors' office.
- **Performance/Show Top** – fitted shirt that has the show theme, is worn over the bibber.
- **Pit Instruments and Equipment** – also called Front Ensemble. Large, non-marchable instruments and equipment moved onto marching field sidelines by students and band parents.
- **Pit Crew** – parents/students who help move percussion equipment out to the field for competition. All volunteer parents who assist the marching band with the loading,

transporting, unloading and set up of band equipment, Pit instruments, Show Props and more at marching events.

- **Plume** – Feather adornment worn on Shako with the marching band uniform. Must only be held with gloves.
- **Props** – large visuals used during marching season, moved by students and parents to enhance the visual effect of the show. Sideline frames go on the sidelines. Media frames are the 10-foot frames that usually go in the back of the field.
- **Quads** – multi-tenor drums commonly mounted in sets of 4-6 drums.
- **Section** – consists of a group of like instruments.
- **Section Leader** – appointed by the band directors to be in charge of his/her section of the band.
- **Sectional** – a rehearsal called by the Student Leader of each section. All students in a section are expected to attend all Sectionals.
- **Sousaphone** – another term for Tuba
- **Shako** – a tall hat with visor. Part of main, formal uniform.
- **Shako Box** – carrying case for marching uniform hat (see Shako).
- **Shoes (marching)** – shoes worn with marching band uniforms.
- **Show Music** – a collection of songs the marching band performs on the field while executing the drill.
- **Show Shirt** – t-shirt designed to reflect current year's theme/logo of the marching show. May be worn under performance/show top. Great souvenir for the year.
- **Soloist** – band members who play a feature part, by themselves, in a performance.
- **Sight Reading** – playing music that one has never seen before.
- **Spring** – concert season.
- **Spring Trip** – mass transport of the band for the purpose of competing in concert competitions at a location so remote from the band room that they must stay overnight at a hotel. Typically every other year.
- **Tenors** – set of 5-6 connected drums carried by members of the Battery.
- **Vibraphone** – percussion instrument; a big, metal looking xylophone.
- **Woodwinds** – flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone.
- **Winter Guard** – the group of color guard members that compete in the Spring.

## **FAQs**

Q. Will my son or daughter need to audition to be a member of the NPHS Grizzly Marching Band?

A. Only percussion and the Color Guard are required to audition. These auditions are held in the spring for the following school year. (i.e., auditions for the 2026-2027 seasons were held in the spring of 2026). Percussion auditions are for placement only.

Q. How will I know when the auditions are scheduled?

A. Auditions will be posted through the band Facebook page, X, Band App (for Color Guard), email, BoosterHub and word of mouth.

Q. When can we see a schedule for the year?

A. The complete schedule is usually finalized at the end of May or beginning of June, but keep up with BoosterHub in case of moved dates due to weather, games, and other unforeseen circumstances.

Q. How do we keep up to date on band schedule changes, since our kids don't tell us anything?

A. The best way to stay on top of the band's activities is to attend the Band Boosters meetings and provide us with your email address so that you can be in communications. We also use BoosterHub, Facebook and X.

Q. When does the Marching Band practice?

A. Marching Band starts with one mandatory band camp in July/August. Mr. O'Donnell will provide your student with a practice schedule, which is typically every Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:30p during the school year. Be sure to ask your student for the schedule. Percussion and Color Guard will have additional practices periodically.

All practices and band camp are held at North Point High School. Students are responsible to find their own way to and from band camp and practices. Make friends with other parents to help carpool!

Q. When does the North Point Grizzly Marching Band perform?

A. The band performs at all North Point High School Home football games, basketball games, some wrestling matches, Wentzville parade and some community gatherings. Competition schedule should be finalized prior to the end of the previous year. Most competitions are held on Saturdays in September & October.

Q. What is band camp?

A. Marching Band has two weeks of band camp. Two weeks in July/August just prior to the start of school at North Point High School. Percussion and Color Guard will have additional practices. Dates and times for the summer will be announced before the end of the school year. Band camp is dedicated to learning the music, drill, marching fundamentals, as well as sectional time.

Q. What is the purpose of band camp?

A. Band camp is an opportunity for the band to become familiar with each other, their music and formations. Various activities, such as spirit days, allow members of the band to bond with one another.

Q. Is band camp mandatory?

A. Yes, band camp is mandatory. The staff and students work VERY hard throughout these days. It is important for the students to attend every day because this is when they bring together the music that they have been learning on their own prior to camp and the drill for their marching band show. Help to encourage your student to have their music memorized BEFORE camp starts!

Individual challenges should be discussed in advance with the Band Directors.

Remember to accommodate band camp in your family's vacation plans this summer!

Q. Is band camp difficult?

A. The kids get quite a workout. Be prepared for plenty of sweating. It's an experience most of the kids "love to hate." Students must follow an appropriate dress code of t-shirts, shorts, comfortable sneakers, socks, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Bring a water container – unlimited refills are available throughout the day – water is your best friend!

Q. What is the benefit of band camp?

A. One major benefit of band camp – when your freshman or new marching band student arrives for the first day of high school, he or she will already be a part of a well-respected group and will have a whole new group of friends (across all grades) to help with the transition into high school. Our band students look out for each other and especially for the new members.

Q. Are all practices and performances mandatory?

A. Yes. Each band member contributes a piece of the puzzle that is on display each week during our season. It is important to have all the pieces of the puzzle at rehearsal. However, there are occasions that can't be avoided and the band member may be excused by the Band Director with proper notification. (e.g. illness or unavoidable academic or school related conflict.) Two (2) week notification unless family emergency or sudden illness.

Q. Does attendance at games, parades, and festivals affect my students' band grade?

A. Yes, marching band is a co-curricular activity that extends from the classroom.

Q. How do the students get to the various performances?

A. Keeping track of 80+ band members is a large and difficult task. For this reason we ask that your student travel to and from all events with the band by the transportation provided (school bus).

Individual scheduling conflicts should be discussed in advance with the Band Directors.

Q. How accurate is "Dismissal Time" from performances?

A. While every effort is made to list accurate "Dismissal Times" so that you know when to pick up your student from NPHS, there will be times, due to traffic or some other unforeseen problem, that the return will be delayed by a few minutes. We will try to communicate this if it is going to be a problem.

Q. Is there a communication chain?

A. Facebook, X and BoosterHub are the best ways to communicate with the band director, staff, and other parents.

Q. Can parents attend the rehearsals and performances?

A. Parents are encouraged to attend any and all performances. Chaperones/Pit Crew helpers are needed for each event and Sign-ups will be available for this purpose. All volunteers traveling with the group and/or helping with the students will need to fill out the required NPHS volunteer forms each year, fingerprinted, and be approved. Parents are not allowed at rehearsals unless their volunteer forms are approved.